(a) whether there has been a steep hike in the prices of surgical instruments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). There has been an increase in the prices of indigenously manufactured surgical instruments due to general inflation. The prices of imported surgical instruments have increased more due to devaluation of the rupee.

Extension of Local Trains beyond Virar

5333. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the local train service beyond Virar on the Western Railway;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of (EMU Rakes A/C D/C) manufactured in the country and the number of rakes made available to the Western Railway; and

(d) the number the rakes required for extension of local service beyond Virar: and

(e) the details of the plan prepared by the Western Railway to procure sufficient rakes for the extension of local service there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (e). Survey or introduction of EMU type of rolling stock on Virar-Vadodara-Ahmedabad section has already been taken up. Decision on introduction of such EMU services beyond Virar would be taken, taking into account the results of survey, technical feasibility, availability of resources and EMU stock etc. Number of rakes required would be assessed on completion of the survey.

No AC/DC EMU rakes are manufactured in the country.

[*Translation*]

Godown of F.C.I in Jaynagar

5334. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of fOOD be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 14 on February 25, 1992 and state:

(a) the distance between the godown of the Food Corporation of the India and the railway line in Jaynagar; and

(b) the details of per ton expenditure on transportation from Jaynagar godown to railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Hoarding of Foodgrains

5335. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions to State Government in regard to hoarding of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which have imposed ceil-